

**Testimony SB 445**  
**Lynn Jones**  
**Connecticut Votes for Animals member**  
**PETA member**  
**ASPCA member**  
**CT Condo Coalition**

I would like to thank the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE for the opportunity to express my support of SB 445 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE SALE OF CATS AND DOGS FROM INHUMANE ORIGINS AT CONNECTICUT PET SHOPS.

I am a registered voter in Middletown and I am a member of CT Votes for Animals, PETA, ASPCA and the CT Condo Coalition.

I am an animal lover and have owned pets my entire life. I currently own five rescue cats. I take care of my animals, make sure they have the proper veterinary care, and provide them with a warm and loving home – they are my children. Two of my cats were adopted from a shelter, one was left behind by an irresponsible unit owner, and two were kittens left in the condo complex to survive on their own. My condominium complex was threatening to fine several unit owners for feeding the animals and providing shelter. To avoid this, each of us adopted several of the kittens. People often ask, “You have five cats! Why? How can you stand all that pet hair?” To which I reply, “I wouldn’t have it any other way. I cannot turn my back on an animal - especially one who has suffered from the abuse and cruelty of an irresponsible owner. I took on the responsibility of being a pet owner and I will live up to that responsibility. You don’t discard an animal because they don’t suit your lifestyle anymore.”

- *As a PETA member, I read about the dreadful conditions in puppy mills*
- *On the news, I hear about the dreadful conditions of puppy mills and the people who are trying to make a dollar at the expense of an innocent animal*
- *I have seen court cases where sick animals from puppy mills are sold to families – animals that did not receive the proper medical care and were ignored by the breeders*
- *Animals are not a commodity for profit – they are innocent creatures*
- *There are too many animals that are no longer wanted by their owners – we don’t need to keep breeding more animals and putting more animals through this pain and suffering caused by neglect*

Please put an end to the puppy mills. I am urging you to ban the sale of commercially-bred dogs and all animals for that matter, in new pet shops and phase out their sale in the remaining 16 pet shops. Let’s make this step towards protecting these creatures that don’t have a voice. If Chicago can do it, then so can we. Let’s join Chicago and be the model for the rest of the country to follow.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Lynn Jones, Middletown